**Simplification of Immigration Process**

*316. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact there have been large number of complaints about the processes and poor co-ordination among eight Protectorate of Emigrants offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for simplifying the immigration process, by making it transparent, so that increasing number of Indian workers travelling abroad would be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With a view to make the emigration clearance process simple and transparent, promote orderly and humane migration and ensure better protection and welfare of the emigrant workers, the process of amending the Emigration Act is already underway. Besides, steps are also underway to streamline the emigration procedures. The Ministry has also initiated a proposal for introduction of e-governance in emigration for making the emigration process transparent and efficient.

**Shortage of postal staff**

*317. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts in the Postal Department, category-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that the ordinary postal delivery has become irregular due to shortage of staff; and

(c) the steps to be taken to fill the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The category-wise number of vacant posts in the Department of Posts is as under:—

| Group 'A' | Group 'B' | Group 'C | Group 'D' | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 76 | 1219 | 26,054 | 6312 | 33661 |

(b) There is no general shortage of Staff. However, whenever there is a shortage of staff due to promotions, retirement, death or leave, it is managed by redistribution and combination of duties and by engagement of paid substitutes for delivery of postal articles and hence ordinary postal delivery is maintained regularly.

(c) The vacant posts are either to be filled up by promotion or by direct recruitment according to the provisions in the Recruitment Rules. The Departmental Promotion Committees are meeting periodically to full up the posts by promotion. Also, Departmental Examinations are held regularly to fill up promotional posts wherever Departmental Examinations are prescribed. The vacancies meant to be filled up by direct recruitment are also regularly being done in accordance with the policies of the Govemment.

**Report of National Knowledge Commission**

*318. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National knowledge Commission headed by Shri Sam Pitroda has submitted its report on e-governance and other education related issues to Govemment;

(b) if so, the important recommendations of the Commission;

(c) whether Govemment propose to set up a high level committee to implement these recommendations; and

(d) the budget allocation made for the implementation of proposed recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Till now the National Knowledge Commission has submitted its recommendations only on e-governance to the Prime Minister on 26th january, 2006.

(b) These recommendations broadly relate to Processes and Standards, Infrastructure and Organization. They highlight the need to: